



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 2021**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Jasmin A. Hall, Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Bruce Whitaker, Vice Chair, Orange County Water District
Brenda Dennstedt, Secretary-Treasurer, Western Municipal Water District
David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District
June D. Hayes, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS PRESENT; NON-VOTING

T. Milford Harrison, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Kelly E. Rowe, Alternate, Orange County Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, Dean Unger, David Ruhl, Carlos Quintero, Marie Jauregui, Rick Whetsel, Sara Villa, Pete Vitt

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Cathy Pieroni, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Ken Tam, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Nelida Mendoza, Orange County Water District; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District; Mallory Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Hall on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting was conducted virtually, and all votes were taken by oral roll call.

2. ROLL CALL

An oral roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments; there were no public comments received via email.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

There were no added or deleted items.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MAY 4, 2021

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, approve the Consent Calendar.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Dennstedt/Hayes
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Hall, Hayes, Slawson, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SALINITY COALITION STATUS REPORT (CM#2021.36)

Mark Norton provided a presentation on the Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC) Status Report contained in the agenda packet on pages 15–30. The SCSC was formed in 2002 to address the critical needs and methods to remove salts and reserve valuable resources. The impacts of salinity are that it limits use of groundwater basins, increases cost of recycled water, damages household appliances/fixtures, reduces agricultural crop yields, and imparts unpleasant taste in drinking water. The SCSC provides funding for research projects that address the needs to control salinity in water resources and reduce salinity in potable water, wastewater, and recycled water. Mr. Norton noted that a proposal was received by Orange County Water District for a pilot research project, this would evaluate the flow-reversal reverse osmosis for municipal potable reuse. The SCSC offers a graduate fellowship program for about \$10,000 per year; the fellowships are offered to a graduate student to conduct research to address salinity issues. It is anticipated that the SCSC will hold a Virtual Salinity Summit in fall of 2021 to provide information to agencies, discuss recent legislation, and recruit new members. The members of the SCSC contribution of annual dues are \$10,000/year, and the value is to promote the collaboration on common salinity management issues, implementing multi-year research programs, and communicate compelling information regarding salinity management to the public.

Commissioner T. Milford Harrison questioned when the last summit was held and why is it scheduled to be virtual; Mr. Norton noted the last summit was held about three (3) years ago at the Metropolitan Water District, and it is being virtual due to the uncertainty about whether large gatherings of in person type of events are still going to be possible or feasible.

Commissioner Hayes referred to the Salinity in Imported Supplies slide (page 18 in the agenda packet) and questioned why there is a consistent cyclical pattern to the TDS in Lake Matthews; Jeff Mosher noted that it is due to how Lake Powell and Lake Mead are operated and due to the wet and dry seasons. Commissioner Hayes asked about the annual dues of \$10,000/year; Mr. Norton noted that the annual dues have been the same since 2002 and there is an annual budget that SCSC goes through and tracks the needs to operate the organization and to support needed projects. Chair Hall asked about the cost of the Summit and if fellowships can apply at any time; Mr. Norton noted that there is no fee to attend the summit, and there is typically a window every other year for a fellowship to apply.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.A.

B. DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES WATER SYSTEM GRANT SUPPORT WORKSHOP (CM#2021.37)

Rick Whetsel provided a presentation on the Disadvantaged Communities Water System Grant Support Workshop contained in the agenda packet on pages 33–38. SAWPA staff is proposing a workshop on May 25 for SAWPA member agency staff to discuss a concept for a new regional fund assistance program. The purpose of the fund would be to provide technical assistance support to small water systems who lack the staffing and technical expertise to apply for and manage government grants. The SAWPA Member Agency General Managers recommended that SAWPA conduct a workshop to determine the need for ongoing outreach to water systems supporting disadvantaged and Tribal communities and to learn more about the California Rural Water Association support services available. Commissioner Hayes questioned if there is a way to ensure that the small water agencies keep up with what SAWPA helps them do and not let the system deteriorate afterward. Mr. Whetsel noted that within the grant there is criteria that the programs and projects would be maintained and upkept for a certain amount of time. Commissioner Dennstedt asked about what staff level is intended for the workshop; Mr. Whetsel noted that the workshop is planned for member agency staff to gather information from the member agencies on their efforts. Jeff Mosher noted there is a timing element due to \$4 million that is going to be in Proposition 1 Round 2 for disadvantaged communities, and part of the proposals that would be developed would be under this proposed program. This program will be brought back to the Commission for consideration if that is what is from the outcome of the workshop to ensure that there will be time to develop proposals. Chair Hall noted she is interested in learning more about how many small agencies need our assistance and how they are identified and would like to participate in the workshop.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.B.

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

The following oral/written reports/updates were received and filed.

A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – MARCH 2021

B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – MARCH 2021 (CM#2021.38)

C. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – MARCH 2021 (CM#2021.39)

D. PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, FEBRUARY 2021

E. PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, FEBRUARY 2021

F. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Jeff Mosher informed the Commission of the passing of our SAWPA employee, Jerry Oldenburg. Commissioner Hayes recommended sending a sympathy letter to the family on behalf of the SAWPA Commission and staff.

G. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jeff Mosher noted that previously the Commission approved a support letter for the bond efforts, which is still being processed, though things have shifted to provide a support letter on behalf of SAWPA and other IRWM Regions to support Inclusion of Integrated Regional Water Management funding in Drought Relief and Resiliency Package.

H. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

There were no comments/reports from the Chair.

I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Slawson noted that with regards to the disadvantaged communities; a lot of the smaller water companies are private mutual water companies, so there is stock ownership and value to that. This grant program allowed giving grants to private companies where under State law, individual water districts should not be giving something of value to a small mutual or private company, and as a water agency we need to be careful.

J. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Dennstedt requested a future discussion agenda item on updating the Strategic Plan for SAWPA. The last Strategic Plan done was in 2011 with a review in 2016, and it is time to go over the short-term and long-term goals and focus on the mission, vision, and the future direction for SAWPA. Commissioner Dennstedt also noted that SAWPA is moving into the next phase of renovating the lobby and she was asked to continue to be involved in the process. All Commissioners expressed their full support with Commissioner Dennstedt involvement with the renovation of the SAWPA lobby; and concurred in having the Strategic Plan as a future agenda item for discussion.

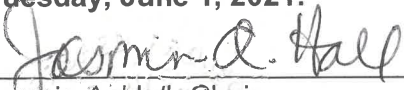
8. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Hall adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m. in memory of Jerry Oldenburg and his contributions to SAWPA over the years.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.



Jasmin A. Hall, Chair

Attest:



Sara Villa, Acting Clerk of the Board